

However, the Examiner now rejects claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 13 as allegedly being unpatentable over Jaramillo in view of Gillingham (U.S. Patent No.: 6,546,476).

With respect to independent claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Jaramillo satisfies almost all the limitations of this claim, except the Examiner acknowledges that Jaramillo does not disclose delivering a command to the second device at a point in time which is less than or equal to a latency time of the second device. The Examiner, however, alleges that Gillingham makes up for the deficiencies of Jaramillo. Specifically, the Examiner states “Gillingham discloses the step of delivering a command to the second device at a point in time which is less than or equal to a latency time of the second device (see col. 6, line 42 through col. 7, line 15)”. In response, contrary to the Examiner and similar to the argument submitted in the previous Amendment with respect to Cohen, Applicant submits that Gillingham does not teach or suggest at least “delivering a second command to a second slave device...,” as recited in claim 1. That is, the cited portion of Gillingham only discusses issuing commands to memory array banks within the same memory device 100, which, *assuming arguendo*, corresponds to the claimed first slave device. Gillingham, however, fails to even mention at least delivering a second command to a second device. As discussed, Gillingham only discusses the process of delivering commands to one and the same memory. Applicant’s claim 1, instead, describes the delivery of two different commands to two different devices. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 3 and 5 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependency from independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claims 6 and 13, the Examiner alleges that Jaramillo satisfies almost all the limitations of these claims, except the Examiner acknowledges that Jaramillo does not disclose “providing respective difference values between a longest of the latency times of all the slave devices and the latency time of each slave device; delivering a command to the second device at a point in time which is less than or equal to a latency time of the second device”. The Examiner, however, alleges that Gillingham makes up for the deficiencies of Jaramillo, and cites the same columns and line numbers of Gillingham that are cited above with respect to claim 1. In response, first, Applicant submits that nowhere do any of the cited portions of Gillingham teach or suggest at least “providing respective difference values between a longest of the latency times of all the slave devices and the latency time of each slave device,” as recited in claim 6, and similarly recited in claim 13. That is, Gillingham never even mentions the particular limitation of providing difference values between a longest of latency times of all slave devices and the latency time of each slave device, as described in claim 6 and similarly described in claim 13. Further, as discussed above, Gillingham only relates to delivering commands to one and the same memory device (i.e., one slave device), whereas the present invention, as recited in claim 6 and similarly recited in claim 13, relates to a bus system having at least two slave devices. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 6 and 13 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicant submits that dependent claim 7 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 6.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/801,048

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62698

Finally, with respect to independent claim 8, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the applied references at least for reasons similar to those set forth above for independent claim 1, as claim 8 recites limitations that are similar to claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

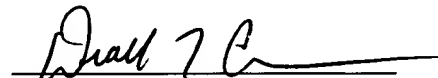
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